

2/25/10 & 3/1/10 EmPOWER-EECBG Presentation Questions

- 1) Q: Where can we find information concerning procurement issues related to the Buy American provision?
A: Information on the Buy American Act can be found in Section 10: Buy American Requirements of Attachment D: ARRA Addendum. Additional information is available at <http://management.energy.gov/documents/ARRAGuideAttachment10v1.pdf>
- 2) Q: What is the first form we should fill out?
A: The Grant Agreement itself. If you have returned the grant agreement and you have identified the building where the project is going to occur, you can start filling out *Attachment C, the Project Review* form and forward it to MEA.
- 3) Q: How soon can we expect to get assistance from the technical contractor?
A: You will be contacted by phone and/or e-mail within approximately one month of this conference call, most likely the last week of March or the first week of April.
- 4) Q: How will the technical contractor help us with technical assistance?
A: First, MEA and/or MEA's technical assistance contractor will contact each EmPOWER EECBG sub-grantee in order to gain an understanding of the buildings and/or types of projects that the local government would like to direct their grant funds towards. Once we have an understanding of the types of projects being considered, we can begin to identify how to best leverage the technical assistance resources. For instance, some local governments may require an energy audit of a particular government building. Other local governments may have already developed a project in which case they may only need MEA to review their project or possibly provide support on complying with some of the ARRA requirements.
- 5) Q: What is the deadline for expenditures?
A: June 1, 2012. Final invoices need to be submitted to the MEA by no later than August 1, 2012.
- 6) Q: The *Intellectual Property Provisions* (page 31; sec. 9), what are they and what do they mean?
A: This is a general clause that must be incorporated into all ARRA sub-grants. Intellectual property provisions normally come into play with grants that fund research and development (R&D). It is unlikely that any intellectual property issues will arise with the EmPOWER EECBG grants but it must be included in the grant agreements, just in case. Additional information concerning intellectual property can be found on http://www.gc.doe.gov/financial_assistance_awards.htm.
- 7) Q: Do we need to verify contractor and subcontractor DUNS numbers?
A: No, DUNS numbers do not to be verified by sub-grantees.

- 8) Q: Do we need to advertise the Davis Bacon provision when soliciting bids? What is the specific Davis-Bacon language that should be used in a procurement?
A: Yes. The specific Davis-Bacon requirements are outlined in Attachment D: ARRA Addendum in Section 11: Prevailing Wage Requirements and Section 12: Davis-Bacon Act Requirements. This information can be pasted directly into your procurement documents. If you need us to send you an electronic copy of this text, please let us know.
- 9) Q: Where can we find Davis Bacon wage requirements?
A: Davis-Bacon wages are available on a county-by-county basis at <http://www.gpo.gov/davisbacon/md.html>.
- 10) Q: Is MEA going to help small towns with small grants amounts?
A: Yes, we are working with the technical contractor to specifically address the issue of helping small towns with their projects. MEA plans to develop one or more project options that small local governments (with small sub-grants) can leverage to simplify the EmPOWER EECBG process.
- 11) Q: Is there a list of what is prohibited for spending EmPOWER EECBG grant money on?
A: No. If a particular project is not listed on Appendix A of your grant agreement (page 10), the project will need to be reviewed by DOE before the project can move forward. In that way, any project not listed on Appendix A can be considered to be prohibited until explicitly approved by DOE.
- 12) Q: Are soft costs included?
A: Indirect costs are eligible as long as they are determined to be reasonable by MEA.
- 13) Q: Do HUD 11/Davis Bacon interviews apply to this grant?
A: MEA is unaware of the need for HUD 11 interviews as part of this program.
- 14) Q: Will we receive assistance for dollars spent, energy savings, and jobs created on our invoice(s)?
A: MEA's technical assistance contractor can provide assistance with energy savings calculations. Dollars spent and jobs created are the responsibility of the grantee. Dollars spent will be the total dollars paid to your contractors and/or vendors. Job information (i.e. hours worked) will come from your contractors as well.
- 15) Q: How do we know what the Davis Bacon requirements are for some categories?
A: Davis-Bacon wage rates vary between counties. From the list of job classifications for your particular county, you should select the wage rate that best reflects the type of work being completed as part of your project.